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27 July 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: 25X1A [redacted] NRO Staff

SUBJECT : Areas of Future Activity for IRARS

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1. At the meeting in [redacted] I said I would give you my views on some further assessment and reporting activities I want to see investigated. Before listing them, let me say that I am pleased with the way things have progressed thus far and am looking forward to the investigations of alternative means of measuring image quality.

2. As for longer-term pursuits, the relationship between GRD and GSD should be high on the list, for obvious reasons.

3. A second area of need is the development of a means of measuring and reporting the quality of stereo pairs. Most of the assessment work I have seen has treated the two elements of stereo pairs as independent units, a procedure that may be satisfactory for measuring hardware performance, but one that is obviously unsatisfactory in evaluating the intelligence content of coverage.

4. A third need is for identifying the best means of converting interpretability ratings into terms meaningful for control of operations and evaluation of hardware performance. It may be that a direct conversion of interpretability ratings into the elements of a VEM matrix, for example, will yield better results than those obtained by first translating the rating and VEM data into their GRD equivalents.

5. Another requirement is the identification of those performance parameters that should be included in PFA and PET reports and the manner in which the data should be presented. Standardization of tribar reading and reporting is a first step in this direction, but the work should be

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carried further. For instance, is it meaningful to report single-direction tribar readings as measures of system performance? Should interpretability ratings be included in these documents and, if so, which ones? How is average mission performance to be measured?

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7. Needless to say, I don't consider this list all-inclusive, nor is its order meant to reflect any particular prioritization.

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